

### REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated August 20, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 26, 27 and 28 are hereby amended. No claims are canceled. No claims are added. Accordingly, claims 1-28 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

**Claims 1, 3 and 6-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,062,049 to Martinsson (hereinafter “*Martinsson*”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,685,338 to Hoffman (hereinafter “*Hoffman*”).** *Office Action* at p. 2, ¶ 6. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

Independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a cylindrical metal body having a first diameter, wherein the first diameter is not expanded; end portions located at opposite ends of the cylindrical metal body, wherein the end portions have a second diameter smaller than the first diameter.” *Martinsson* does not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention.

*Martinsson* teaches a “machine 10 [that] comprises an outer drum 11 adapted to surround and contain an inner drum 12.” *Martinsson* at col. 2, lines 18-19 and FIGs. 1-5. As shown, “the outer drum 11 and the inner drum 12 are built in the same way, i.e. comprising a cylindrical envelope 13 and 14, respectively, one end of which is closed by a gable 15 and 16, respectively.” *Martinsson* at col. 2, lines 30-33. *Martinsson* is entirely silent as to any description, express or inherent concerning “a cylindrical metal body having a first diameter, wherein the first diameter is not expanded; end portions located at opposite ends of the cylindrical metal body, wherein the end portions have a second diameter smaller than the first diameter.” Thus, *Martinsson* does not teach or suggest all of the features of independent claim 1.

*Hoffman* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Martinsson*. Indeed, the Office only relied on *Hoffman* to disclose “the use of hems in sheet metal forming.” *Office Action* at p. 3, ¶ 8. Accordingly, none of the cited references, either individually or in combination teaches or suggest each and every element of independent claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of independent claim 1. Claim 3 and 6-20 depend from independent claim 1. It stands to reason that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of this dependent claim should be withdrawn as well.

**Claims 2, 4, 5 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Martinsson* in view of *Hoffman* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,645,971 to *Riegel* (hereinafter “*Riegel*”).** *Office Action* at p. 4, ¶ 11. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

*Riegel* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Martinsson* and *Hoffman*. *Riegel* discloses a cylinder that “is further shortened as its diameter is increased over a greater area which occurs when the bilging portions of the dies engage the walls of the cylinder.” *Riegel* at p. 2, col. 1, lines 12-16. In contrast, Applicants claim “a cylindrical metal body having a first diameter, wherein the first diameter is not expanded; end portions located at opposite ends of the cylindrical metal body, wherein the end portions have a second diameter smaller than the first diameter,” as recited in independent claim 1. Thus, *Riegel* does not teach or suggest the features of claims 2, 4, 5 and 25, which depend from claim 1.

Indeed, the Office only relied on *Riegel* to disclose “a drum with a butt welded seam and bead portions formed in the body portion.” *Office Action* at p. 4, ¶ 11. Because none of the cited references, either individually or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every element of independent claim 1, they also fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claims 2, 4, 5 and 25, which depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 2, 4, 5 and 25.

**Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Martinsson* in view of *Hoffman* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,446,035 to *Barrat et al.* (hereinafter “*Barrat*”).** *Office Action* at p. 4, ¶ 12. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

*Barrat* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Martinsson*. Indeed, the Office only relied on *Barrat* to disclose “using an enamel to coat a drum to prevent erosion due to detergent.” *Office Action* at page 4, ¶ 12. Because none of the cited references, either individually or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every element of independent claim 1, they also fail to

teach or suggest each and every element of claim 21, which depends from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 21.

**Claims 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Martinsson* in view of *Hoffman* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,901,465 to Boussetta et al. (hereinafter “*Boussetta*”).** *Office Action* at p. 4, ¶ 13. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

*Boussetta* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Martinsson*. Indeed, the Office only relied on *Boussetta* to disclose “using metal bands 34 on a drum to reduce vibrations.” *Office Action* at page 4, ¶ 13. Because none of the cited references, either individually or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every element of independent claim 1, they also fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claims 22 and 24, which depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 22 and 24.

**Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Martinsson* in view of *Hoffman* in view of *Boussetta* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,063,098 to Niwa et al. (hereinafter “*Niwa*”).** *Office Action* at p. 5, ¶ 14. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

*Niwa* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Martinsson* in view of *Boussetta*. Indeed, the Office only relied on *Niwa* to disclose “a vibration dampening element comprising rubber.” *Office Action* at page 5, ¶ 14. Because none of the cited references, either individually or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every element of independent claim 1, they also fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 23, which depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Office withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 23.

**Claims 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Martinsson* in view of *Hoffman* in view of *Boussetta* and alternatively in view of *Riegel*.** *Office Action* at p. 5, ¶ 15. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

Independent claim 26 is allowable over the cited art in that claim 26 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a body having a first diameter formed by

rolling a metal sheet into a cylinder and butt welding a seam having beads formed in a surface of the body for strengthening the body, wherein the first diameter is not expanded.” As discussed above regarding independent claim 1, *Martinsson* in view of *Hoffman* do not teach or suggest this feature.

*Boussetta* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Martinsson* and *Hoffman*. *Boussetta* teaches “steel bands or straps which may be readily fastened about the outside periphery of the cylindrical wall of the dryer drum.” *Boussetta* at col. 1, lines 55-67. *Boussetta* is entirely silent as to any teaching or suggestion, concerning “a body having a first diameter formed by rolling a metal sheet into a cylinder and butt welding a seam having beads formed in a surface of the body for strengthening the body, wherein the first diameter is not expanded,” as recited in independent claim 26. Thus, *Boussetta* does not teach or suggest the features of independent claim 26.

*Riegel* also fails to cure the deficiencies of *Martinsson* and *Hoffman*. *Riegel* discloses a cylinder that “is further shortened as its diameter is increased over a greater area which occurs when the bilging portions of the dies engage the walls of the cylinder.” *Riegel* at p. 2, col. 1, lines 12-16. In contrast, Applicants claim “a body having a first diameter formed by rolling a metal sheet into a cylinder and butt welding a seam having beads formed in a surface of the body for strengthening the body, wherein the first diameter is not expanded,” as recited in independent claim 26. Thus, *Riegel* does not teach or suggest the features of independent claim 26.

Independent claim 27 is allowable over the cited art in that claim 27 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a body having a first diameter formed by rolling a metal sheet into a cylinder and butt welding a seam having beads formed in a surface for strengthening, wherein the first diameter is not expanded.” Nothing in the cited references teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Hence, for the same or similar reasons discussed above regarding claim 26, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited references does not teach or suggest at least the above feature of claim 27, and respectfully submits that independent claim 27 is allowable over the cited references.

Independent claim 28 is allowable over the cited art in that claim 28 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a body having a first diameter formed by rolling a metal sheet into a cylinder and butt welding a seam, wherein the first diameter is not

expanded.” Nothing in the cited references teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Hence, for the same or similar reasons discussed above regarding claim 26, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited references does not teach or suggest at least the above feature of claim 28, and respectfully submits that independent claim 28 is allowable over the cited references.

Accordingly, for the above stated reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of independent claims 26, 27 and 28.

**Claims 1, 3 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT Publication No. WO 03/008696 to Yoon (hereinafter “Yoon”) in view of *Martinsson or Hoffman*. Office Action at p. 6, ¶ 17.** Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

Independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a cylindrical metal body having a first diameter, wherein the first diameter is not expanded; end portions located at opposite ends of the cylindrical metal body, wherein the end portions have a second diameter smaller than the first diameter.” *Yoon* does not teach or suggest at least his feature of the claimed invention.

*Yoon* teaches a “a drum device ... including a drum having a chamber therein ... and vibration reductive sound insulating member fitted to the drum.” *Yoon* at page 4, lines 23-26. *Yoon* is entirely silent as to any teaching or suggestion concerning “a cylindrical metal body having a first diameter, wherein the first diameter is not expanded; end portions located at opposite ends of the cylindrical metal body, wherein the end portions have a second diameter smaller than the first diameter.” Thus, *Yoon* does not teach the features of claim 1.

Applicants respectfully assert that *Martinsson* and *Hoffman* do not cure the deficiencies of *Yoon*. For the same or similar reasons discussed above, *Martinsson* and *Hoffman* do not teach or suggest at least the above feature of claim 1. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of independent claim 1. Claims 3 and 22-24 depend from independent claim 1. It stands to reason that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of those dependent claims should be withdrawn as well.

**Claims 2, 4-5 and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yoon* in view of *Martinsson* or *Hoffman* and further in view of *Riegel*. Office Action at p. 6, ¶ 18.** Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

*Riegel* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Yoon* in view of *Martinsson* and *Hoffman*. *Riegel* discloses a cylinder that “is further shortened as its diameter is increased over a greater area which occurs when the bilging portions of the dies engage the walls of the cylinder.” *Riegel* at p. 2, col. 1, lines 12-16. In contrast, Applicants claim “a cylindrical metal body having a first diameter, wherein the first diameter is not expanded; end portions located at opposite ends of the cylindrical metal body, wherein the end portions have a second diameter smaller than the first diameter,” as recited in independent claim 1. Thus, *Riegel* does not teach or suggest the features of independent claim 1.

Indeed, the Office only relied on *Riegel* to disclose a drum with a butt welded seam and bead portions formed in the body portion. See *Office Action* at page 6, ¶ 13. Because none of the cited references, either individually or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every element of independent claim 1, they also fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claims 2, 4-5 which depend from claim 1.

Independent claim 26 is allowable over the cited art in that claim 26 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a body having a first diameter formed by rolling a metal sheet into a cylinder and butt welding a seam having beads formed in a surface of the body for strengthening the body, wherein the first diameter is not expanded.” Nothing in the cited references teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Hence, for the same or similar reasons discussed above regarding claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited references does not teach or suggest at least the above feature of claim 26, and respectfully submits that independent claim 26 is allowable over the cited references.

Independent claim 27 is allowable over the cited art in that claim 27 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a body having a first diameter formed by rolling a metal sheet into a cylinder and butt welding a seam having beads formed in a surface for strengthening, wherein the first diameter is not expanded.” Nothing in the cited references teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Hence, for the same or similar reasons discussed above regarding claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited

references does not teach or suggest at least the above feature of claim 27, and respectfully submits that independent claim 27 is allowable over the cited references.

Independent claim 28 is allowable over the cited art in that claim 28 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a body having a first diameter formed by rolling a metal sheet into a cylinder and butt welding a seam, wherein the first diameter is not expanded.” Nothing in the cited references teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Hence, for the same or similar reasons discussed above regarding claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited references does not teach or suggest at least the above feature of claim 28, and respectfully submits that independent claim 28 is allowable over the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 2, 4-5 and 25-28.

#### **Conclusion**

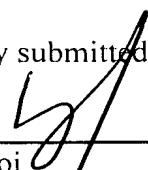
The application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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